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LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA, FRANCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement agreed upon in Geneva on 20 November 1997 by the Foreign Ministers of France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and the representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

(Signed) Alain DEJAMMET
Permanent Representative of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergey LAVROV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
United Nations

(Signed) Bill RICHARDSON
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
United Nations

(Signed) Stephen GOMERSALL
Chargé d'affaires of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the
United Nations

Annex

Statement agreed upon in Geneva on 20 November 1997 by the Foreign Ministers of France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and the representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China

On the night leading into 20 November, in Geneva, there was a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France and the representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China.

The participants in the meeting underscored the importance of the efforts in solidarity of the five permanent members of the Security Council aimed at the unconditional and complete fulfilment by Iraq of all the relevant Security Council resolutions.

They appreciated the diplomatic initiative undertaken by the Russian Federation, in contact with the other permanent members of the Security Council, which the participants in the meeting hope will lead to the unconditional decision by the leadership of Iraq to accept the return of the personnel of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in its previous composition, for work as stipulated in Council resolution 1137 (1997).

The participants in the meeting supported the intention of the Special Commission, to meet on 21 November in New York to discuss and advise on, among other important issues, ways to make UNSCOM's work more effective on the basis of the Security Council resolutions. The recommendations from that meeting will be subject to the approval of the Security Council.